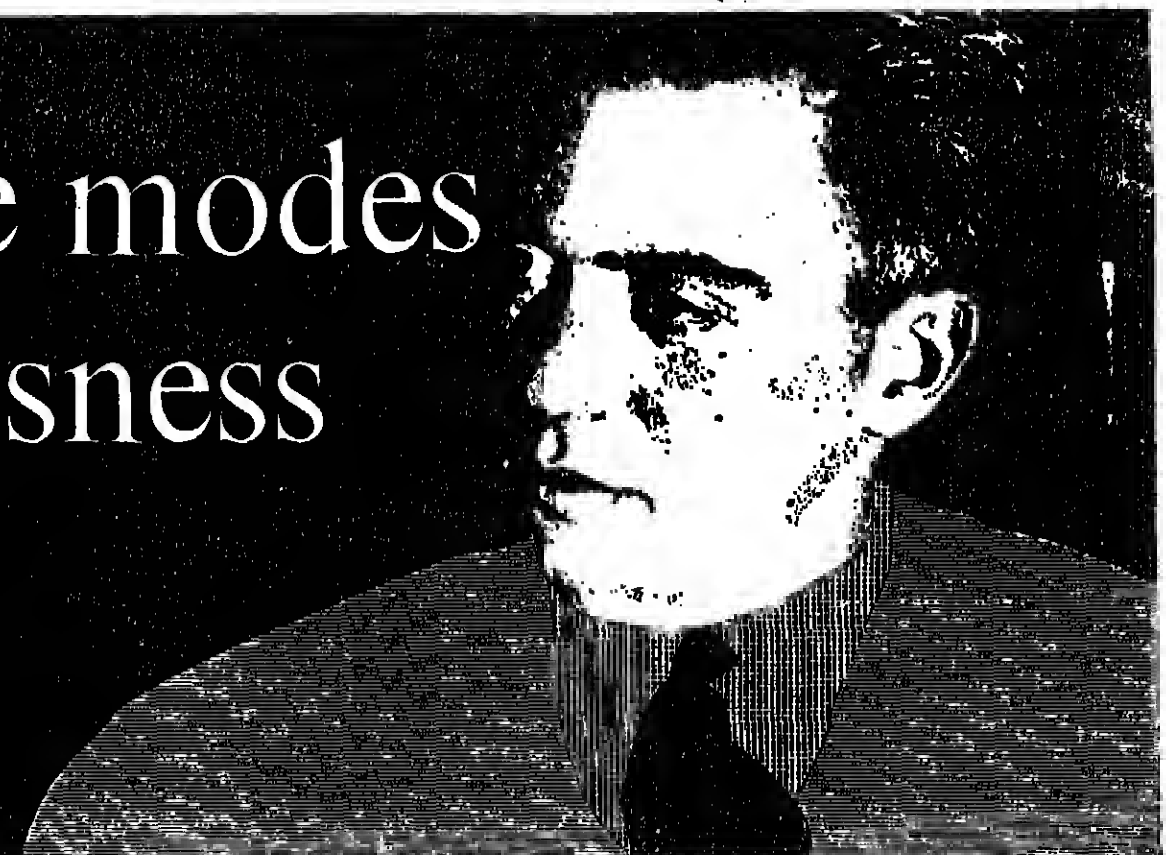


### Altering the modes of consciousness

THE ECSTATIC, INFINITE IDEALISM OF HART CRANE



BROM WEBER (Editor): *The Complete Poems and Selected Letters and Prose of Hart Crane*, 298pp. Oxford University Press, £2 2s.  
W. BUTTERFIELD: *The Broken Arc: A Study of Hart Crane*, 276pp. Oliver and Boyd, £3 15s.

OVER THE past twenty years Brom Weber has established himself as the foremost authority on the life and work of Hart Crane. In 1948 appeared his *Hart Crane: A Biographical and Critical Study*, in some respects an uneven and oddly organized book, but also one that was impressive both in the extensiveness of its research, and in the cogency of much of its argument and evaluative conclusions. It also contained some valuable appendixes, where were to be found early uncollected poems, appreciations of fellow-artists which Crane had published in various small magazines, and poems in progress taken from a manuscript. It was a most welcome successor to Philip Horton's more anecdotal biography, years later Professor Weber produced his edition of *The Letters of Hart Crane*. In spite of the hectic nature of his life, Crane was a prolific and discursive correspondent (with Waldo Frank, Allen Tate, Gorham Monson, and Malcolm Cowley, especially), and his letters rank among the finest of the age.

Most recently Oxford University Press have brought out, two years after its American publication, Professor Weber's edition of *The Complete Poems and Selected Letters and Prose of Hart Crane*, which in effect supersedes the Doubleday paperback *Complete Poems*. Apart from a new order of contents and a more spacious typographical arrangement of *The Bridge* (the glosses, as in the original Black Sun Press edition, being printed alongside the poem on the facing pages rather than inserted parenthetically into the text), this volume differs from its predecessor in several important respects. It includes many additional poems, most of which appeared in the appendixes of Professor Weber's critical biography; a number of prose writings (reviews, statements of aims and poetics, several of his most interesting letters); and detailed notes on the quite numerous minor alterations, based upon intensive study of manu-

scripts and final drafts. In his introduction, Professor Weber talks of a future variorum edition; but the general reader of modern poetry must feel grateful enough already that the poet has had such a diligent and scholarly admirer.

Gratitude can also be extended to Mr. R. W. Butterfield for his painstaking, always sensible, study of Crane's life and work. Mr. Butterfield writes well, combines commentary and biography in a discreetly skilful manner, and—although his approach is rather more exegetical than critical—is rarely prone to the kind of sterile over-ingenuity which afflicts so many academic efforts to cope with Crane's more baffling obscurities. If his book's scholarly machinery often seems a bit too mechanical—i.e. we find Mr. Butterfield footnoting his own "These supposed jazz rhythms have attracted considerable attention and admiration" with the barely helpful "For instance, Joseph Frank, 'Hart Crane: American Poet', S.R., LVII (Winter 1949) believes it to be 'the finest embodiment of the feelings evoked by modern jazz—or at least the jazz of the twenties'—it is never irritatingly obtrusive. All in all, a sound guide to a subject on whom it is very easy to be unsound.

Born in 1899, the only child of wealthy parents who had separated by the time he was ten, Crane grew up mainly in a prosperous suburb of Cleveland. With his earliest memories consisting of parental rows ("the curse of sundered parentage"), and with his later childhood spent in a household dominated by women, in particular by a mother almost frantic in her possessiveness, he emerged into manhood, robust and energetic enough, but a confirmed (and often insupportable) homosexual. His formal education ended when he was seventeen, and he was thus left without any special qualifications at a time when there were nearly six million men out of work in the United States. Between periods of unemployment he worked as a shop assistant and salesman, until in 1923 he found—for a few years and intermittently—a small measure of satisfaction as an advertising copywriter in New York.

Crane's mother was an ardent Christian Scientist, and though her son never subscribed to the dogma of Christian Science, he did admit that at an early age his psychology and mental processes had been permeated by it. The material world, which seemed to offer him such fragile happiness and health of emotion, became for him a secondary order of truth. His spirit's task was

to discover the primary reality, which existed only in the realm of the visionary imagination—to become one with God, it might be said, were not the crucial point that Crane's God was but the destinationless soaring of his own imagination. And in virtually all the poets and philosophers who inspired him—in Plato, Blake, Whitman, Nietzsche, Rimbaud, and Ouspensky—he discerned encouragement for this ecstatic, infinite idealism. Consequently, the larger part of his poetry is a record of his attempt to transform (or to transcend—his inheritance from American Transcendentalism being obvious enough) a hideous material reality, whether it be his personal experience (as in many of his short poems), the contemporary megalopolis world ("For the Marriage of Faustus and Helen"), or America and its history (*The Bridge*).

This insistent optimism was in fact a cause both of his alcoholism and of his later despair. For the actuality of his life was dismal indeed. It was composed of exhausting relationships with an uncomprehending, though at times well-intentioned, father, and with an overly attentive mother; of the lingering, painful confusion that always succeeded the brief joys of his homosexual friendships; and of unemployment which soon reduced

him to lethargy, alternating with time-consuming employment which frustrated his poetic impulses. To anaesthetize himself against such experience, to convince himself that his philosophical idealism was valid and his visionary optimism justified, to enable himself to live and write "at the pitch that is near madness", he began to drink. By his early twenties his alcoholic tendencies were conspicuous; in his late twenties he was the most notorious and violent drinker of the American literary world. (Today he would doubtless have chosen different substances to transform his consciousness.) What is relevant in this context is the absence in his letters of comment upon contemporary social and political matters, whether the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, the collapse of the Stock Market, or even the inconveniences of prohibition. Society, or the possibility of changing it, did not concern him. The material world was an element that the individual, in changing himself by whatever means, must transcend.

Crane began writing poetry while still at school. His first short poems of distinctive accomplishment started to appear around 1919 and 1920; his first major sequence, "For the Marriage of Faustus and Helen", was completed in 1923; and his first volume, *White Buildings*, was published in 1926. In that year a loan from the banker, Otto Kahn, helped him to get down to some consistent work on *The Bridge*, the idea for which had come to him three years previously. He went to stay on the Isle of Pines off the coast of Cuba and there wrote within a few weeks, during an amazing burst of creative activity, a number of fine lyrics and most of the better sections of *The Bridge*. Thereafter will, inspiration, and control of his immense poetic project deserted him, and for two years he wrote almost nothing at all. In 1928 he spent several unproductive months in Los Angeles, on occasions getting himself beaten up in waterfront bars by sailors he found irresistible. The following year he spent an equally unproductive period in France, doing battle this time with the Paris police.

Returning to the United States, he at last managed to complete *The Bridge* to his partial satisfaction in the autumn of 1929. On the strength

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**Life in the study**  
S. OGDEN: Isaac D'Israeli  
pp. Clarendon Press: Oxford  
Varisly Price: 35s.  
described Isaac D'Israeli as 'Bayle of literary speculation'. He wrote several books of limited merit on history and taste, and edited other books of literary curiosities, anecdotes, and miscellanies, all of considerable greater merit. He knew Byron, Scott, Keats, Campbell, Moore and Byron, and was one of the first to introduce Blake. His friendship with John Murray (until the estrangement caused by the publication of *Grey's*) meant that he was 'in the founding of the Quarterly Review'. He was the first to become an English man of letters. And, of course, he was the father of Benjamin Disraeli. His biography was obviously needed. It is now supplied by Mr. Ogden. It provides much information about his life, his works, detailing their contribution to them, and telling us about their reviews and later publication history. The critical comment is somewhat disappointing, although to be fair to Mr. Ogden it would require the curiosity and tenacity of an Edmund Wilson to convey any real feeling of what a book such as *Curiosities of Literature* is like. But comments like '[It] can be recommended for long train journeys' give the impression of a mind not working at its full stretch. The documents 'seem to have allowed few personal touches. Like his son he was affusive in dress, but unlike him he was dull in conversation. But it cannot really be said that D'Israeli comes alive in these pages. Mr. Ogden has no trouble in showing that Disraeli's memoir, which portrays a dear-old man in a book-lined study, romanticizes his father.—D'Israeli could be quarrelsome and waspish in his dealings with other writers. But surely Disraeli was not entirely wrong to suggest that his father's amotional life found its fulfilment in the study. His politics show him as one who is disappointed in

sympathized with the French Revolution at first, and then published a novel called *Varian* directed against revolutionary sympathizers in England. He was a Tory, yet repelled by the Toryism of the *Quarterly Review*. In religion he was a liberal Jew, and appropriately found a haven in the Church of England. Clearly his ambivalent position as a Jew accounts for much that is puzzling, yet he still remains enigmatic.

Mr. Ogden covers his ground dutifully. There is one very funny sentence in this book, but unfortunately the humour is probably unintentional: "The strong evangelical party was insisting that Christians owed the Jews a debt of shame for the past centuries of persecution and societies were founded for converting them to Christianity."









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## Behind the masks

MILAN KUNDERA: *The Joke*. Translated by David Lloyd and Oliver Stallybrass. 296pp. Macdonald, 35s.

Although concerned with life in Czechoslovakia over the past twenty years, this masterly novel reflects, even in local details, aspects of growing up in Britain during the same period. Ludvik, a Moravian Slovak, is generally committed to the accepted ethics and ideals of his society. But he is a joker, with an air of scepticism who gets into trouble for his smile. The straight-faced conformity of, say, Corporation Man, the "keenness" of school or regimental spirit these are qualities which Ludvik finds hard to mine. His disability would be called "dumb insolence" over here. In 1948 he is expelled from the university for supposedly rebellious political opinions; he is held to be a Trotskyite, and contrasted with war heroes who gave their lives. Having lost his university grant, he must do his national service and is put in the awkward squad, where his mates are dodgy, wild boys of shabby background. He discovers that in the army, the worse you behave, the easier your life. There are some dreamy country boys who cannot comprehend the army; there is a calm, untroubled pacifist; but, for the most part, the kids act like Schweik.

There is another soldier, though, a young pig who wants to be keen, and whose keenness is not accepted by superior officers. Refusing to play safe, the pig gets the worst of both worlds. Ludvik does not like this. Schweik is not a good enough model. "I detest with all my heart fraternal feelings based solely on mutual recognition of a similar haveness," says the joker, seriously. On release, he takes a belated degree and gets a job in an institute offering research facilities for journalists. Here he meets a woman who is married to the successful careerist, Zemanek, who long ago wrecked Ludvik's youth by getting him expelled from university. Ludvik is now (in 1967-68) a cynic with guarded tongue and bitter memories. He decides to seduce this woman, who does not appeal to him, in order to revenge himself upon Zemanek.

That is the basic plot. Most readers are likely to sympathize or identify with Ludvik, until reaching the ugly seduction scene, where he uses the plain, aging, excited woman so pitilessly. Perhaps, there really was something wrong with the "joke" which caused Ludvik's expulsion, something wrong with his values and "sense of humour". He had sent a keen young Communist girl an open postcard: "Optimism is the opium of the people! The

healthy atmosphere stinks! — Long live Trotsky!" He sent this at a time when most young Communists were unconsciously optimistic, with "an aesthetic and ceremonial joy — Joy with a capital J". But these fellow-students were "adolescent fakes", concealing immature faces behind the mask of the hard, ascetic revolutionary. Ludvik claims to see the same characteristics in the boyish C.O. of his army unit, posing as hero of a cheap thriller. "The young man of iron nerve who outwits the criminal gang", the young man of the "terrible irresponsibility" of posturing youth is a main theme in the novel. Another is Ludvik's straightforward grasping behaviour towards women, equally irresponsible but with no pose. A strange, simple girl falls in love with him during his military service; he breaks out of barracks and gets to her bedroom, assisted by local working-men, but she lights him off and he is bitter. This forebodes his unloving assault on Zemanek's wife.

This woman, Helena, is a stodgy kind of Socialist, proud of her "democratic purification", posing as a lover of everything down-to-earth and proletarian. She too has a dislike for modern youth and thinks that the old Stalinists who reshaped Czechoslovakia after the war against the Nazis, were not so bad as it is nowadays made out. A more interesting defence of the Stalinists is put up by Koska, a Christian who holds that "the revolutionary era from 1948 to 1956" was a time of religious zeal, closer to his heart than the 1960s, an age of ridicule, scepticism, and cynicism, of ironic intellectuals and "the mob of youth". In Koska's idealism, his longing for collective unity, his obedience and self-criticism, may be seen the link between Christianity and Marxism which the Polish philosopher Kolakowski dismisses with such concern — each as inspiring faith and a repressive church.

Koska's saintliness and humility has won him the love and the body of that strange girl who frights off Ludvik. She represents something mysterious in this book, a capacity to make people drop their posing and role-playing. This connects with another important theme, concerning Jaroslav, the leading fiddler in the local cymbala band, a folklorist. An old schoolfellow of Ludvik's, he used to play jazz with him, was annoyed when Ludvik became a Communist and behaved "as if he had made a secret pact with the Moravian cymbala, folklore and country customs, following Stalin's demand: 'Socialist content in national form.' But then Ludvik

turned against this official antiquarianism, this careerist's music. Jaroslav was annoyed again to find that Ludvik found the modern folk-songs, officially sponsored, "wretched, imitations, absolute fakes".

All this is set out in seven subjective narratives, three being monologues by Ludvik, two by Jaroslav, one by Helena, one by Koska, moving lucidly back and forth in time, neatly juxtaposed and interrelated. The eighth chapter is called "Ludvik-Jaroslav-Helena", and cuts back and forth more speedily, describing what happens on the day when Ludvik comes back to his home town and his old school-friends to see the ancient ceremony of the Ride of the Kings. Ludvik expected to dislike it, this antiquity faked up and sponsored by Stalinist officials; but it's all right now, out of fashion, out of favour. The careerist Zemanek is present to sneer at it; these days, he is all for swinging youth. The folklore ceremony and related documents translated and the cymbala band suit Ludvik from the sagas, Saxo Grammaticus, now being pathetic and unpopular, and other chronicles, histories, and interrupted by motor-cycles and barbers, and to this Dr. Davidson's noisy, drunken adolescents. Lud adds an illustrated chapter on the vik plays in the hand. The numerous archaeological evidence.

The effect of reading the book are tied into a satisfying pattern through is one that takes it beyond it would be hard to derive any kind of the specialisation of Anglo-Saxon study of party line: all four narrators' stories. There are irresistible reminders of accounts of the personal lives of both Toni Stoppard and William of the characters, and their public burrows. The Rosenzweig and meanings, and the author imposes on Gide's stories of a dozen studies are interpretation. The novel could only go forward here, passed over have been written in a society where: tales told from different Marxism had been taken seriously, in different countries "Socialism with a human face" came almost unrecognizable; he merely another shaman, another character is now men, now gods, pose. Milan Kundera offers several ow monsters; historicism is folded kinds of human face, unmarked by with myth in a cut-up that seems ways on the point of offering some

dean key to heroic poetry itself, only we could look hard enough at each mass of overlapping data. To Beowulf poet, it is Hrothgar of Georot who is the great Danish hero; in the Scandinavian analogues it is his nephew Hrothulf. To the Beowulf poet, Sigemund the Volung is only a digressive trailer for Beowulf in his final dragon-flight; in the analogues, he and his nephew are the focus of a whole series of extraordinary incidents and adventures. To the Beowulf poet, Hecemod is a striking example, con-

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168pp. Dent, £2 14s.  
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BRUCE MITCHELL: *Beowulf*. 150pp.  
Macmillan, 35s.

The chief fascination of *Beowulf*,  
viewed aside its literary, aesthetic  
blems, is the wide area, of reveren-  
tation its study has to involve,  
in universal folklore and fairy-  
tale down to the most concrete local  
ance of Benly Grange board-  
or Sutton Hoo sword-hilt.  
The huge mass of Scandinavian  
analogues somewhere in the  
ale. By their acknowledgment  
his fact, Miss Simpson, Dr. Garmon-  
sway and the late Professor Davidson  
have produced an extremely use-  
ful and interesting book. A close  
translation of the poem is fol-  
lowed by a collection of "analogues  
and related documents" translated  
and the cymbala band suit Ludvik from the sagas, Saxo Grammaticus,  
now being pathetic and unpopular, and other chronicles, histories, and  
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## Ravelling out the threads

GEORGE WATSON: *The Study of  
Literature*. 237pp. Allen Lane The  
Penguin Press, 42s.

George Watson's strenuously argued,  
lucid, and highly informative thesis  
falls into two parts. In the first he  
baggages with themes which are intrin-  
sically, value, the language of verse and  
prose, the theory of kinds, the editorial  
art; and in the second he turns  
attention to the influences upon  
literary study of such related disci-  
plines as linguistics, psychoanalysis,  
sociology, the history of ideas.

The *Study of Literature* is based  
upon the conviction which is, or used  
to be, the foundation of classical  
studies — that literature  
does not derive its significance from the  
ways it only changes to bear upon cur-  
rent problems that its final powers of  
illumination... often lie precisely in the  
fact that, like what remains of the  
man past, it is simply different from  
the present.

He scorns the current literary  
critic's obsession with "response", and  
his large assumptions about educa-  
tional responsibility.

In obsession with the effects of litera-  
ture, whether moral or aesthetic, has  
ten feet in the deep roots of some of  
the more characteristic assumptions of  
modern literary theory. It has been  
tempted to encourage the reader to go to  
literature for the sake of what he could  
do out of it for himself.

Mr. Watson believes that the anti-  
historical mood of literary theory of

trasted to Beowulf, of a had and prob-  
ably mad ruler; the analogues are  
not tolerated in him at all. And as  
for Beowulf himself, he is a figure  
of such strange and dubious  
provenance, from non-aliterating  
of Beowulf to the "bear" or  
"bear's son" of general folklore, that  
it becomes hard even to say what an  
analogue is to his story.

Perhaps, if poetry is to keep its  
mystery, this is as it should be. At  
any rate, the book offers a full trea-  
sure-board for those who are eager  
to pursue the various trails that  
Klaeber in his famous edition  
mapped out in summary form. There  
is a particularly helpful section  
devoted to literary customs, which  
contains among other things Ibn  
Fadlan's eye-witness account of a  
Swedish funeral ritual on the Volga  
c. 922. This terrible and moving  
narrative of human and animal sacri-  
fice, well told as it is, makes such a  
strong impression that to go back  
from it to the mild funeral pyres of  
Beowulf is to think, as the Anglo-  
Saxons would put it, one of two  
things but the second is more likely  
— that the Beowulf world is already  
a civilized one where Christian influ-  
ences work against pagan cruelty, or  
that Wordsworth was right and an  
still has a lot to learn from life.

The prose version of *Beowulf* in-  
cluded in the volume is lucid, read-  
able, and accurate, though a shade  
"literary" and somewhat delib-  
erately going for "dignity". One  
feature is its explanatory unfolding  
of kennings and similar compounds  
and phrases, perhaps at the expense  
of vividness but at least in an attempt  
to bring out as much of the poem's  
meaning as possible. This *Beowulf*  
becomes "swan-riden seas", to in-  
dicate that *rad* is a "riding" rather  
than a "load". For *wordhord*  
on the other hand, revealing his noble  
eloquence. Etymologies are pressed  
to contribute, as in *hæmrodrifol*  
(= battle-bloody), literally "sword-  
bloody"), translated in various  
contexts as "well with such drops as  
drip from swords", "covered in  
such gore as drips from swords",  
"seethed with drops such as drip  
from swords", where the recurring  
explanatory phrase does in fact pro-  
duce the desired epic effect, though  
by less economic means.

Mr. Crossley-Holland's verse  
translation comes buttressed by a  
general introduction to the poem by  
Bruce Mitchell and a group of  
appendices which include genealogi-  
cal tables, some notes on episodes  
and digressions, and so-called  
"metrical analyses" in brief impres-  
sionistic commentary of two pas-  
sages quoted in the original. There  
are also some drawings by Brigitte  
Hanf which are in a light sketchy  
style as unsuited to the hard texture  
and detail of the poem as it is pos-  
sible to imagine. The introduction,  
though students who are beginning  
the poem will find it useful as far as  
it goes, is rather incurious, unde-  
veloped, and unengaged, its tone,  
too, is less than happy. Both Kevin  
and I hope you will enjoy *Beowulf*,  
either because or in spite of us.

The translation itself reads well  
and keeps fairly close to the text.  
Mr. Crossley-Holland uses a rough  
four-stress line with occasional all-  
iteration and rhyme, and the closer  
he sticks to the four-stress basis the  
better his effects are. Un-  
fortunately, as he admits, "there  
are plenty of cases, though, where I  
have not conformed to this pattern",  
and the relatively frequent short and  
long lines are often hard to defend  
from any organically rhythmic view-  
point. *Beowulf* has a structural  
under-music which is impressive and  
important, and it seems a pity to lose  
this for the sake of a half-hearted  
freedom.

In the translation, there are some  
excellent touches ("with a sheaf of  
shining blood" at line 447; "after  
the blue hour" at line 648; "but  
for" and "at line 1178 to sharpen  
Queen Wealhtheow's anxiety over  
Hrothgar's adoption" of Beowulf,  
and also at times a somewhat fun-  
neling throwing away of subtleties,  
ambiguities, and kennings (the nu-  
merous "ashes" for *branda lufu*;  
"the ten and the fustness" for *ten  
and fusten*, which Garmonsway and  
Simpson translate "the marshes his  
inseparable retreats"; "all the lake's  
expanse" for *cæne eardas*, rendered  
by Garmonsway and Simpson as  
"homes of creatures, more than  
human" in order to bring out the full  
implications of *eucene*). The version is  
perhaps at its best in the last episodes  
of Beowulf and Wiglaf, where an  
unforced dignity comes through.



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# Edward Arnold

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The second and stronger reason, more and no-less egotistical than the impulse to write a novel, is the wish to discover what sort of a person I have been, without allowing vanity and cleverness to soften the outline of the creature. I am, as accomplished professional novelists, and nothing, but nothing would have been easier for me than to draw a portrait which, without telling single lie, would be dishonest from beginning to end: intelligent, charming, interesting, and a lie. I have tried to

would have been more difficult for her than to have drawn a portrait of herself as others see her." Intelligent charming. Interesting. There is no one more convinced of sin than I saint. But whereas Christian saints confess their sins to God, with or without a father confessor, and receive absolution, the humanist who eschews the psychoanalyst's sofa remains burdened for life.

*Johnny from the North* is, in one aspect, a confession, purely of fail-

In Margaret Sigm Jameson's life the choices have been agonizing between, for example, looking after her son when her marriage has broken, ill and earning enough money by writing to board him up with another woman; between love for Guy Chapman, her second husband, and love for her son Bill. Bill supposed I was going to spend the whole of his holidays in Whitley. I had

thought in the light of recent advances in geographic research and recent statements in the philosophy of science. It is also in part an attempt to reconcile the aims and methods of the quantitative and qualitative schools of geography.

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**Edward Arnold**







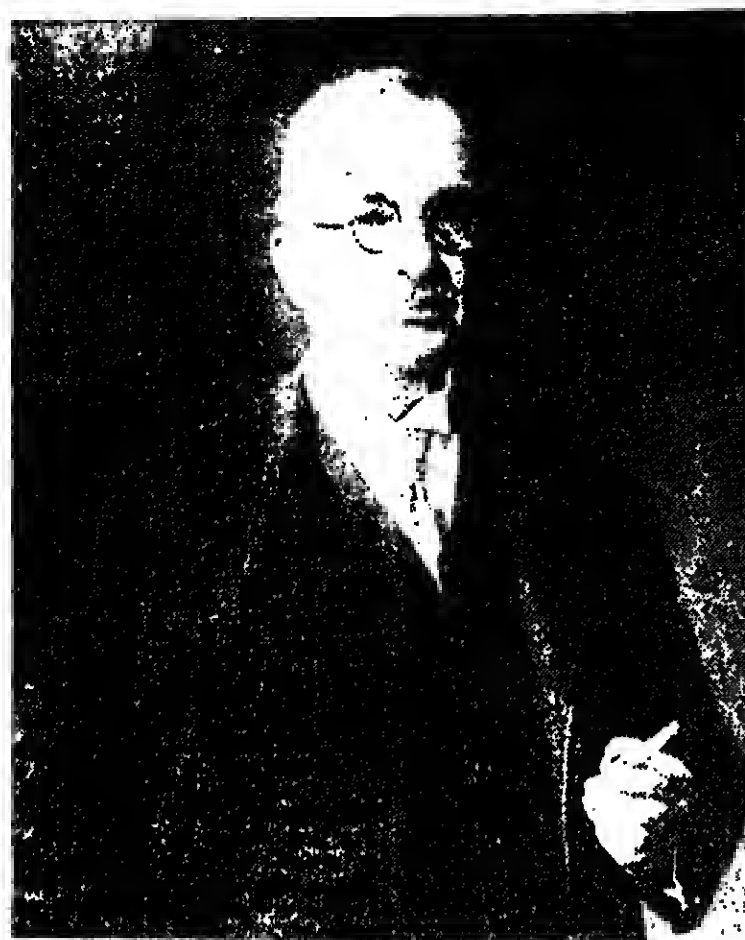




the acts and aims of the Government above that time. This statement arouses the highest expectations. A dispassionate, well-balanced, investigation of the historical background, and initiated by special pleading, whether in the interests of communism, militarism, fascism, ethnocentrism, or even civility, has long been overdue. Up to a point, indeed, *The Greek Passion* provides it. For the most part Mr. Young's narrative of events is clear, fair, and exhaustive. He is, in Aristotle's sense, a political animal: his analysis of the new Constitution shows the same that for essentials as does his narrative of the *parish* itself and the King's abortive counter-revolution. All the more pity, then, that for whatever reason he should have seen fit to state over some of the more embarrassing or discreditable episodes associated with the junta, and some of their right-wing predecessors, even though he himself points out, correctly, that the Papadopoulos government in many ways shows "a distributist, if not even a Socialist, tinge." Such tactics, one fears, will at once lose him, at least in liberal circles, the historical acceptance which, for its greater part, *The Greek Passion* undoubtedly deserves.

A few examples must suffice. Mr. Young reports Papadopoulos' charges, made at the time of the 1961 elections, that "the Army General Staff had conspired with Karanastasis to force soldiers to intimidate peasants; that false names had been added to the voting registers"; and so on. What he does not do is to state a *one* of the 21 to investigate the truth of the charges. Whether they were fact or fiction is inspired fiction is a matter of some importance, not yet fully determined. It is high time someone nailed this old scandal once and for all, and Mr. Young should have been the man to do it. Instead, he leaves it hanging in mid-air.

Furthermore, though he is honest enough in reporting the right-wing counter-purges, mostly under Grivas, direction which followed the Varkiza Agreement in 1945, he devotes no more than three short and unconvincing paragraphs to the notorious murder of Georgios Lambrakis. He emphasizes that it was murder, but the reader is never even told the assassin's names, let alone their full political affiliations. He seems more ready to credit the results of the September, 1948, referendum than one would expect of so hard-headed a professional journalist. He characterizes it as a "resounding rejection of the immediate past." This, to some extent, it may have been; but the evidence for indirect persuading is much stronger, especially for the rural districts, than Mr. Young allows. How, in any case, does he square a 91.87 per cent overall majority with his own claim, in another context, that "an absolute ruler, however efficient, took policies out of the talking area, and this to real Athenians was, and still is, death." It is certain that in



Museum, 1940. General Museum.

Athen itself, where foreign observers were invited to watch fair play, the "yes" vote dropped to about 75 per cent. This, as many foreigners in Athens would agree, is a more realistic figure for the support which Papadopoulos enjoys in the country at large than the 10-15 per cent quoted by wishful thinkers abroad. Hydro-electric schemes are proving more popular than hot air. On tortious allegations Mr. Young is sensible and fair, steering a middle course between communist atrocity (fabrications which undoubtedly existed) and unofficial beatings-up by police or security officers. The latter, it is safe to say, are a fact (as they are in every European country), but not official policy, being heavily frowned on by the Cypriotes, if only because they prove so damaging to the regime's public image. Given the circumstances, no investigator could hope to come up with clear-cut answers. Exceptional cases apart, such allegations are virtually impossible to prove or disprove (to had a Red Cross team think it would find in Bouboulas Street—bodies dangling from piano-wire?—and for that very reason make first-class propaganda material. Certainly the Papadopoulos regime cannot prove anything so horrible, or well-documented, as the wholesale murder and torture of civilians by O.P.I.A. (the Greek Communist secret police) carried out in 1944, and reported on by a horror-struck T.U.C. delegation under Sir Walter Gurney.

As regards censorship and education, Mr. Young seems to be rather too dependent on official hand-outs, and tends to suppress the suppres-

sion of free speech in academic circles. It is true that many Greek university teachers can be criticized for something more than left-wing views. Students in the past were often forced to buy, and parrot, their professors' published textbooks, to degree otherwise, while cribbing in examinations, at every level, was, and doubtless still is, something of a national pastime: one good example of how to be *perverse* in *kennings*, i.e., stupid-clever, or sharp you cut yourself according to whether you got found out or not. On the other hand, Mr. Young is very reticent about just which schoolbooks the Cypriotes withdrew; nor do we learn anything of the line taken in those replacements which were rushed out to schools all over Greece, free and gratis. Perhaps most irritating of all, since the facts are public and not in dispute is the way Mr. Young deals with Nikis Theodorakis, a not very attractive figure whom the Cypriotes seem hell-bent on turning into a martyr. He was one of the few foreign communists to condemn the Russian writers Daniel and Sinyavski, so can hardly, *minimally*, complain of how the state has treated him. We are duly told of his release from prison—but not a word of his relegation to a remote Arcadian village. Such details, not perhaps very important in themselves, are bound to lose Mr. Young readers—which is a pity. He has written what is arguably the most valuable book on modern Greek politics in the English language; why spoil the ship of state for a ha'porth of political tar or whitewash?

## Beetle-backs

GISELA M. A. RICHTER: *Engraved Gems of the Greeks and the Etruscans*. 339pp. Phaidon. £18.

Julius Caesar collected antique seal-stones and gave six cabinets of them to the temple of Venus Genetrix. Mark Antony exiled a senator who refused to give him a coveted gem worth a small fortune. The recent revival of interest in the art of the Greek and Roman gem-engravers is a welcome recognition of the place which that art held in the hearts and pockets of ancient connoisseurs. In the past year or so we have had two books by Mr. John Boardman (*Achaic Greek Gems and Engraved Gems, the Imitative Collection*—both reviewed here on August 22, 1968) and the first of two large volumes by Dr. Gisela Richter, Dr. Richter presents a selection of Greek and Etruscan gems—695 of the former and 181 of the latter—ranging in date from the eighth to the first century B.C. The stones of Republican and Imperial Rome will follow in the second volume.

Dr. Richter's interest in the gems, like that of the ancients themselves, is artistic and virtually confined to the engraved devices. Within each of the conventional "periods" of Greek and Etruscan art, she classifies her engravings according to their subjects. Then with heretofore beside her, monster beside monster and battle beside battle, the development of Greek art is laid out in miniature.

No one could be better qualified for such a task: for more years than most scholars can remember Dr. Richter has proved herself an authority on every aspect of Greek art; and in the past ten years a remarkable series of masterly works, has come from the Phaidon Press, giving her mature judgments on the standing male and female figures characteristic of the archaic period, on the archaic grave-reliefs of Attica, and, most magnificently, on the art of portraiture in the ancient world.

Applying the criteria developed in these other studies, and in the closely allied field of numismatic art, Dr. Richter illustrates from the gems such general themes as the archaic artist's progressive mastery of human anatomy and of the treatment of drapery, the coming of naturalism in movement, and the ingenuity of the engravers in composing groups of figures to fill a more or less oval surface. She traces the influence of the major sculptors such as Polykleitos, Praxiteles and Lysippos upon their miniature colleagues, and gathers some of the grandest achievements of Hellenistic portraiture, cuneus as well as intaglio. Dr. Richter's judicious selection of examples adds enormously to our repertory of the subjects chosen by artists of the front rank, especially in the otherwise rather sparsely represented genre of animal sculpture.

Yet it must be asked whether her method of classification by subject

has enabled her to make as great a contribution as possible to our knowledge of the history of ancient art. In fact, the method closes off of the most promising avenues of inquiry. For, given, if to a lesser extent than in portraiture, the insight into the personality and style of individual artists and schools, and a means of discovering to what extent the pace of development varied from one place or one time to another. The author does indeed list together in a section of her introduction the very few signed gems, and a whole plate is rightly given to enlarged photographs of both signed and attributed "seals" of the Chios Dexameneis, the most marvellously skilled of all the engravers, a younger contemporary of Phidias and Polykleitos. Even so the lists are incomplete, omitting a signed gem of Cinesimus in the Bibliothèque Nationale (Boardman, A.G.G. No. 3481). And, having quoted with approval Sir John Beazley's dictum that "The name of an artist is the least important thing about him", Dr. Richter makes no attempt to discuss, to enlarge, or even to cite the lists of attributions which have been made to unnamed artists, for discussion of individual artists, is the archaic period, one must turn to Boardman.

One turns to him also for interesting discussion of local schools. Dr. Richter distinguishes Greek-Persian and Etruscan gems almost entirely by the subject-matter of their engravings. But the works of a school can be identified also by the form of the seal itself, especially by the detailed treatment of the scarab beetle which adorned the backs of so many seals of the archaic and classical periods. Dr. Richter has little to say about them, certainly not enough to enable an attentive reader to distinguish Greek scarabs from Etruscan, let alone from Cyprian-Phoenician. The omission is serious, since regional conventions of beetle-backs are a matter of objective description and provide a useful means of checking more subjective conclusions based on the stylistic comparison of dissimilar devices. In deed they are often the only means of deciding between immigrant Greek and native Etruscan work.

For instance a carnelian of Herms in the Ashmolean Museum, which Dr. Richter regards as Phrygian, though "quite Greek in style", is the work of a Greek artist in Phrygia. In practice a shrewd publisher can cut together the scattered quotations in any one book and if the sum total is, say, 7,000 words, claim that they constitute a substantial part of the book. No exact definition of what constitutes a "substantial part" has been finally established because it varies in, say, a poem, novel or biography. In the first of which a substantial part may consist of as little as two lines, the second a few pages of dialogue and the third several thousand words.

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## To the Editor

### Permissions

Sir,—Mr. Charles H. Gibbs-Smith (September 25) interprets "fair dealing" for the purposes of criticism or review as meaning that any dealing with a copyright work for these purposes, however extensive the quotation, is fair, and there is no need to get permission from the copyright owners and "no fees can be charged." This view is not commonly held.

Because of varying interpretations of this provision of the Copyright Act, the Society of Authors and the Publishers' Association announced ten years ago that, while the limits of "fair dealing" must vary according to the circumstances, they would not regard it as "unfair" if for purposes of criticism or review a single extract up to 400 words, or a series of extracts (of which none exceeded 300 words) to a total of 800 words were taken from prose copyright works. This rule of thumb is not, of course, legally binding, but it is a justification of the views held by two responsible bodies.

M. ELIZABETH BARBER.  
The Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, London, S.W.10.

Sir,—Mr. Gibbs-Smith seems to live in a dream-world of copyright law. The Copyright Act does not deal with "fair dealing" as a "substantial part" of the work of which opens a publisher in very many circumstances to the possibility of action for breach of copyright. No exact definition of what constitutes a "substantial part" has been finally established because it varies in, say, a poem, novel or biography. In the first of which a substantial part may consist of as little as two lines, the second a few pages of dialogue and the third several thousand words.

In practice a shrewd publisher can cut together the scattered quotations in any one book and if the sum total is, say, 7,000 words, claim that they constitute a substantial part of the book. No exact definition of what constitutes a "substantial part" has been finally established because it varies in, say, a poem, novel or biography. In the first of which a substantial part may consist of as little as two lines, the second a few pages of dialogue and the third several thousand words.

VINCENT BROME.  
45, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1.

Yet it must be asked whether her method of classification by subject

Sir,—It is good to have Mr. Gibbs-Smith's letter (September 25) informing us of the wording and intentions of the Copyright Act. I believe, too, that under this Act a scholar writing a book of criticism is entitled to quote as much as he likes from any work in copyright, without asking permission, and without paying a fee, so long as he makes "sufficient acknowledgment". However, no doubt, in reply to Mr. Gibbs-Smith's letter, we shall have an energetic response from the Publishers' Association and the Society of Authors, horrified at the prospect of such intellectual freedom. These organizations produced an "agreement" on the Copyright Act whose influence has meant that hundreds of scholars are faced with the dreary labour of writing hundreds of letters asking for permission to quote from copyright works, being greeted with suspicion, and paying heavy fees.

The Copyright Act said that "no fair dealing" with a work in a book of criticism would constitute a breach of copyright. The Publishers' Association and the Society of Authors decided to define "fair dealing" in terms of length of quotation. There seems no justification for this in the Copyright Act whatever. In their note on Copyright written for the reference section of the *Writers and Artists' Year Book*, F. E. and E. P. Stone James say: "The test of fairness is whether the purpose of the use made is reasonable in the interests of criticism &c., or whether what is produced is in substance a competing publication". Note: "the purpose of the use" is not the amount of the use, as Stone James is, of course, the name associated with the definitive law commentary on Copyright—Copinger and Skone James.

It is true that the Act of 1956 speaks of "a substantial part" as a consideration of how much of a work can be quoted. But this was only to determine when the Act applies at all. The Act itself quite definitely states that with short quotations acknowledgment itself need not even be given.

Short quotations do not come into the matter at all. Long quotations need acknowledgment. This is all the Act says. But the Publishers' Association and the Society of Authors presumably say huge quantities of royalty fees disappearing down the drain if authors were to be allowed this degree of freedom. So they produced their agreement, which states that any scholar who quotes more than a few lines of his work in his book, when it is not so at all.

The intention of the Act was obviously to free authentic scholarship from indirect censorship, inhibition, and extortion, for the benefit of our intellectual life, education, and research. Only with an anthology was it considered necessary to oblige the editor to ask permission of the copyright owner. In the case of the Act or in the agreement, was it ever considered necessary to submit one's manuscript to the publisher of quoted material: yet no less than three publishers have recently asked me to do so. All this arises out of the confusion and darkness into which the Publishers' Association and the Society of Authors have thrust the question of permissions.

DAVID HOLBROOK.  
Ducklake, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire.

### Coleridge

Sir,—There is no literary evidence in Coleridge's letters, notebooks and poems to support Dr. Beer's contention (7/3 September 181) that I misread the passage. Nowhere does De Quincey mention Dorothy by name, as readers of Dr. Beer's letter may have been misled to believe by his (Dr. Beer's) specifying "Dorothy's intelligence and sensitivity". De Quincey simply refers to "a young lady" who became Coleridge's "neighbour" in "a very sequestered village", where she became "a daily companion of Coleridge's walks" to a platonically friendly bond of common "intellectual sympathies" in reference to literature and natural scenery. This took place "soon after the marriage", and the "young lady was always attended by her brother". Mrs. Coleridge, De Quincey continues, was deeply wounded at this apparent "competition with a friend of her own age", while her "female servant and others in the same rank of life" began secretly to pity her as "an injured woman" or to feel contempt for her "as a very tame one". Finally, De Quincey says, the strained situation between Coleridge and his wife was aggravated by his being compared "favourably" by her with other poets, "and by her own regular in his habit as Mr. Southey".

I have just checked *The Letters of Sara Hutchinson* edited by Professor Cobban and on page 11 it is stated that "Sara Hutchinson was suffering from a rather plain-looking, and with a plump, dumpling figure devoid of grace and dignity." This provides further proof that De Quincey's "young lady" was Sara Hutchinson, not Dorothy Wordsworth—contrary to Dr. Beer's belief.

When De Quincey's articles on Coleridge were published in *Tristram's Edinburgh Magazine* in 1834 Sara Hutchinson described them as "infamous" (*Letters*, page 438).

The "brother" who "attended" her was of course Tom Hutchinson for whom she kept house (*Collected Letters*, ii, 748), and the "very sequestered village" was Keswick, and from which she walked to Grasmere on her frequent visits to the Wordsworths from Bishopscote, Coleridge shared Greta Hall at Keswick with Southey after 1803, and for proof that his wife used to hunt him with unfavourable comparisons with Southey there is his own evidence (*Collected Letters*, ii, 1200). Since De Quincey wrote retrospectively, he referred to Coleridge's falling in love with Sara Hutchinson in 1799 as "soon after the marriage" with Sara Frierer in 1795.

For Coleridge's affection for his wife before going to Germany there is his own evidence (*Letters in Volume, Preface*, ii, 263, lines 221-232), and for his affection for her in Germany before meeting Sara Hutchinson at Southey there is the evidence of his fellow-traveller L. C. Carlyon, *Early Lives and Love Relationships*, page 180.

DONALD SULTANA.  
Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh.

### Captain Swing

Sir,—I have only just read your fascinating review of *Captain Swing* (September 11).

Writing of the importance of beer house keepers and rural shopkeepers in the radicalism of the countryside, your reviewer says:

Beer house keepers—the poor man's politician—were always men of independent forces, a reasonable assumption, for a publican will generally take on the political colouring of the majority of his clientele... on occasions, he may also create it. But while one is ready to accept the radicalism of village shopkeepers, one would like to know more about its causes.

An account of the retirement of a village cobbler of the present day, Mr. Albert Ralph, printed in the *Evening News* of September 16 suggests what some of the causes may have been. In the depression of the 1930s, farm workers who had only one pair of shoes would come into Mr. Ralph's shop after work and wait for them to be repaired. Messengers were left at the shop. Unemployed men met there to discuss their grievances. And Mr. Ralph remembers trying to mend children's shoes that were really beyond repair because he knew that otherwise they would have to go barefoot. From this one might suppose that the fact of poor people having to sit out and wait for their only pair of shoes to be mended helped to make the cobbler's shop into a club. The contrast of wealth and poverty were in evidence, for the cobbler was, in this case, also making shoes for the gentry. And, a little more speculatively, one might suppose that the cobbler's trade suffered like that of the beer house keeper when the poor grew poorer, whereas those who paid the blacksmith were the employers who owned horses and agricultural equipment. An additional point may be that the cobbler's shop was a place of sober respectability where women as well as men could sit waiting. Mr. Ralph was able to help some of his customers in their troubles because he was also a parish councillor.

PETER LIENHARDT.  
St. Antony's College, Oxford.

### The Sittang River

Sir,—It is with great reluctance that I write to you on this subject, but it seems necessary to do so both for the record and to protect my own reputation. In June, 1965, I had a letter from John Connell asking for my help over at this apparent "competition with a friend of her own age", while her "female servant and others in the same rank of life" began secretly to pity her as "an injured woman" or to feel contempt for her "as a very tame one". Finally, De Quincey says, the strained situation between Coleridge and his wife was aggravated by his being compared "favourably" by her with other poets, "and by her own regular in his habit as Mr. Southey".

When in due course I heard that Brigadier Roberts was to edit and complete the manuscript for publication, I offered my cooperation, and my offer was accepted, but he told me in a letter dated January 31, 1968, that I need have no

qualms about the Burma story, which was in need of re-writing, and that he had done this already. He added that "Sara Hutchinson was suffering from a rather plain-looking, and with a plump, dumpling figure devoid of grace and dignity." This provides further proof that De Quincey's "young lady" was Sara Hutchinson, not Dorothy Wordsworth—contrary to Dr. Beer's belief.

I was surprised therefore to discover on reading the book that on page 121 there was the statement that:

Hutton told Smyth to get the main body of his division back to the Sittang River as quickly as he could and to hold Moumein with one Brigade in order to deny it to the enemy as long as possible. He sent a signal to ABDACOM confirming these facts and these orders.

It surely should have been obvious that I issued my such orders I should quite rightly have been relieved of my command as soon as Wavell arrived later the same day. After a somewhat lengthy correspondence, in which he tried to justify the statement, Brigadier Roberts agreed to write a letter to the TLS and other periodicals correcting it and apologizing for his mistake. On August 27 he sent me a copy of the letter which was published in your issue of September 4, and which I had of course asked to see before publication. This appears to me that I ordered that, if forced to evacuate Moumein, 17th Division was to cover the approaches to the Sittang Bridge by holding the Bilin-Kyakt-Sinang (village) area. This would of course be incorrect, as I had made it very clear that any crossing of the River Salween, a most formidable obstacle, was to be opposed (*Official History of the War with Japan*, Volume II, page 32).

I replied to this letter on September 11 (it was the Bank Holiday weekend), saying that I disagreed with his draft, and suggested an alternative which said:

Hutton's policy, fully endorsed by and in fact ordered by Wavell, was to delay the enemy's advance as much as possible. He hoped it would be possible to suppress effectively enemy attempts to cross the R. Salween. When this failed he ordered the occupation of the position on the Bilin river. In view of Wavell's direct order

that there were to be no more withdrawals he reserved by himself the decision to dislodge this order if it should prove necessary to do so.

This statement is in accordance with pages 30 and 32 of the official history referred to above. I also pointed out that the attribution in your future edition of the book of the words "west of the Salween" for "back to the Sittang River" did not really make the matter clear and that it should read: "Hutton told Smyth to hold Moumein as long as possible and withdraw the disorganized troops, administrative units and stores across the Salween" (ibid., page 30). I have not received an acknowledgment of this letter.

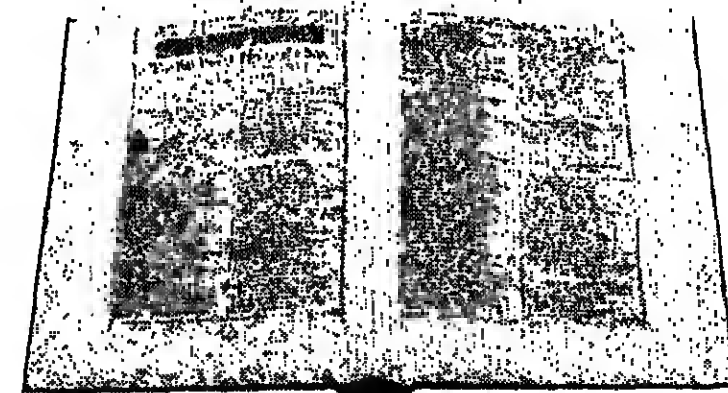
It will also be noted from page 30 that the only person who wanted to withdraw to the Bilin-Kyakt-Sinang area at this early stage was Smyth himself, and that it was firmly vetoed by me (ibid., page 30). His attitude is perhaps understandable, but for strategic reasons it was essential to delay the Japanese advance as much as possible.

There was still the possibility of considerable reinforcements arriving which could not have been disembarked at Rangoon once the air raid warning system, such as it was, became ineffective. There was also the fact that we had very little information about the strength of the Japanese and practically no identifications (ibid., page 30). It certainly seemed unlikely that really large forces could be moved along the rough cart track which crossed the frontier from Siam.

To continue the story, Brigadier Smyth's letter published in your issue of September 4 appears to hold me responsible for the Sittang disaster. It is, of course, true that, on February 12, 1942, I had agreed to his request to his withdrawal behind the River Sittang instead of fighting on the Bilin river (ibid., page 41), there would have been no Sittang disaster. I do not, however, agree that permission to withdraw was given too late. It would be fairer to say that it was given at the right time. References to the official history are in brackets.

(a) The leakage to the Japanese on the evening of February 19 of the decision to withdraw which led them in

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follow the story of the Greek people across the so-called Dark Ages.

The author is informed and fair-minded throughout; fair-minded even in his assessment of the credibility of the Venetian depiction of Linear B, although the present reviewer cannot accept his implied scepticism. For the later period Dr. Willets draws heavily on that fascinating document, the Law Code of Gortyn. He is surely right when he suggests that the more peculiar customs and beliefs of the Cretans were rooted in the Minoan culture; and we may well agree that Homer's Phaeacians embody a distant recollection of the Minoan realm. The illustrations are plentiful, but too many are taken from line-drawings when good photographs are readily available.

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despatch troops, immediately to intercept the column, an undertaking they accomplished with remarkable speed and success (pages 64 and 77).

The plan of withdrawal. It is easy to be wise after the event but in a detailed examination seems to show that nearly twenty-four hours could have been saved. Permission to withdraw was given early on February 19 and the official historian as well as Wavell seem to think it could have been completed before the bridge was blown at 4.30 a.m. on February 23, four days later (pages 62 and 77).

The failure to provide adequate protection for the bridgehead. I have a clear recollection of sending off a message to Brigadier Smith to get troops back for this purpose as early as possible. As there is no record of its receipt it is not referred to in the official history. Brigadier Paken had the same point to Brigadier Smyth (page 66).

The bombing of our own troops by the R.A.F. and A.V.C. (page 67). The blocking of the bridge for 23 hours by an overturned vehicle (page 68).

The failure to use and the destruction of the power vehicle ferries which had been provided by my orders to meet the contingency of damage to the bridge (pages 65 and 69).

Get the unarmoured cars for blowing the bridge too probably to the shortage of engineer personnel and material (page 71).

At the time of the decision to blow, all I can add is that I believe the official historian made every possible effort to arrive at the truth.

Finally, in view of the prominence given to the River Sirang in all these letters, it may be mentioned that except near the mouth it was on Brigadier Smyth's own showing a very poor obstacle and could easily be crossed by infantry higher up. It was not as close to the only main road and railway communication with Mandalay that this could easily be interrupted once the Japanese reached it. There was therefore every reason for opposing the Japanese east to the River Salween and subsequently the River Sirang in spite of the meagre and partially trained forces available for the purpose.

With reference to Brigadier Smyth's further letter, published in your issue of September 11, he agrees with me that I did not give the order as quoted by Brigadier Roberts. He quotes, however, a command to his own book written by Major-General H. L. Davies with which I do not agree, nor was I consulted. It was not "political" pre-arranged on me

but military necessity which enforced a forward policy.

As regards the rest of this letter, I suggest that a careful reading of the official history would appear rather to confirm Wavell's view as to the conduct of the withdrawal than to refute it (pages 62 and 77).

THOMAS J. HUTTON,  
5 Spanish Place, London, W.1.

## 'The Dancers Inherit the Party'

Sir.—Rubinstein Nash's reply (September 23) to my letter entirely ignores my main charge against the Fulcrum Press edition of my book *The Dancers Inherit the Party*. This was, that no acknowledgement was made of the original Press editions of 1960 and 1962. Since the other errors in presentation of my book arise directly from this circumstance, may we now have a precise and factual reply?

As for the substance of Rubinstein Nash's letter, wherever was in the myriads of pages, the relevant facts are that it arrived here on July 5, while the publisher has claimed that my book was published (and that copies had been sold) on June 27 and July 4. Therefore—after the galley proof stage—I was given no opportunity to correct my book before it reached the public.

IAN HAMILTON FINLAY,  
Stonygall, Dunfermline, Fife.

## Upper and lower Case

Sir.—As an editor who has worked on a fairly wide variety of texts covering various aspects of modern history over the past few years, I must confess to viewing the increasing complexity of the arguments in this correspondence with some degree of dismay. According to Mr. Frank Lehman (September 11), the Anarchist foundations in the U.N.I. in the Spanish Civil War were only "nominal" and "symbolic". Having always understood that anarcho-syndicalism was basically an extension of Anarchist thought into a revolutionary trade union context, I find it hard to see why an Anarchist should become an anti-capitalist simply because his context changes. Then, when is a communist a Communist? Evidently only when his party membership is fully paid up and accredited. And Trotskyists can only be Trotskyists if the veteran elite acknowledged them personally. This seems hard on, for example, recent Trotskyist movements in Latin America, whose founders can hardly have been out of the cradle at the time of his assassination. If we are to make the same distinction, who is to judge whether he might have repudiated them or not?

Editors learn to respect what is a charitable frame of mind, or "quirks and foibles" in less charitable moments, and many authors, even the most distinguished ones, do not always feel too pedantically about practices in capitalization. The important thing is obviously to evolve rules and stick to them, at least from book to book. In this area we can only too easily find ourselves in danger of splitting hairs in various directions, and the hours of research that could go into getting every detail correct in line with a complex ruling are potentially phenomenal. Meanwhile, there is the observable truism that right-wing personalities tend to use capital letters far more readily than "uncommitted" or left-wing authors, which I think may be an indication of how subjective ideas on capitalization really are.

PETER FORD,  
Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd, 36 Park Street, London, W.1.

## 'Egypt, the Crucible'

Sir.—In his kind review (September 4) of my book *Egypt, the Crucible*, your reviewer comments that I devote a chapter to the composition and function of the National Assembly without mentioning in it the "more important subject" of the future of the Arab Socialist Union. To encourage real popular participation in government, I do, in fact, devote some space elsewhere in the book to the ambiguities of this mass political organization, and more to the contributory conservatism of the Egyptian press.

But "real popular participation" in the workshop and often wearisome tasks of government? Enormously desirable, no doubt, but how often, in the modern world, outside election times and the imaginations of Marxist or anarchist intellectuals, is this, in fact, achieved and how does one measure it?

England, for instance, has a "free" press, a two-party system, and a long-standing popular political tradition. But has your reviewer looked in on a constituency of a town council chamber, or on a trade union branch meeting lately? The Egyptian fellahin and workers, by contrast, have been repressed for centuries; subservience is ingrained and illiteracy still widespread.

Far from not encouraging participation in the Arab Socialist Union's electoral process, the reservation of 50 per cent of its electoral places for small fellahin and workers in qualification recently tightened up has brought into the political arena many who would not have dreamt of being there in the past. This nation-wide, 50-million-strong political organization has been building for only seven years, during which time it has had to overcome external distinctions. It had its first complete base-to-base National Executive elections only last year. Slow, ponderous, uninspiring, perhaps. But is it not just a little premature to pronounce verdicts of "failure" to achieve something which eludes even the "advanced" and experienced democracies of the West?

HARRY HOPKINS,  
61 Clifton Hill, London, N.W.8.

Our reviewer writes: "It is difficult to see why the Arab Socialist Union was created if not to provide some means of assuaging the people of Egypt more closely with the government of their country. So far, in my opinion, it has almost completely failed in this task, largely because its members have been allowed so little scope either in shaping or in criticizing Ministerial policies. While I would agree with Mr. Hopkins that the A.S.U. has done much to recruit people who had previously remained far outside the political process, this is to no great purpose if they are given nothing better to do than to take part in the workings of yet another vast bureaucratic apparatus. Seven years, as he says, is a short time, but is there any evidence that the next seven years will be any better?"

JOHN WHITTING,  
40 Great Cumberland Place, London, W.1.

## 'The Dissenting Academy'

Sir.—The T.A. often makes a commendable effort to ferret out those rare members of the academic community who can write perceptively about such un-academic activities as jazz, black power, student dissent, and the fringe. But your anti-jazz editor (September 18) of Theodore Roszak's *The Dissenting Academy* shows an almost comic misunderstanding of what the dissent is all about.

At one level the review is a moderately competent defence of nineteenth-century higher education, a sort of secret society of growing civilised elites, a counter-revolution in which, as in the world of Ross, Milford & Co, the intruder must ultimately give himself away by some inadvertent gaffe. The emphasis is on exclusion, as the circle of constancy plays its elegant, collared game of musical chairs around the high table.

But American universities, "where many of those who teach... are indistinguishable... from the car-salesmen next door", attempt to include rather than to exclude. This leads to its own set of problems, but not to the anti-intellectual bias of some gentleman scholars who are more concerned with their colleagues' taste in wine than with their professional competence. It is ironic that many an American college with "the most nominal selection standards" has eagerly sought to improve its "character, cultivation [and] life-style" by importing an elegant product of a great English university, only to find itself lumbered with an unproductive layabout whose only contribution, after a year's luxurious holiday, is a condescendingly superior article on American education in a popular magazine.

of increasing control by government and industry (although they are also aware that the universities have never been tolerated when their opposition to power became too effective: "The King to Oxford sent a troop of horse..."). And third, the unforgivable sin they publicly attack their colleagues who sell themselves to the highest bidder. Some of the academics who have actively contributed to the Vietnam War may only have had "a different version of this noble progress" but others, thoroughly exposed and documented in several well-researched articles, have behaved with utter contempt for "humanism", "culture" and "scholarly detachment". And they have been very generously rewarded for it.

The *Dissenting Academy* does not comprise a closed system with a logically coherent philosophy. One may certainly take exception to one or another of its members' statements, as they frequently do with each other. And a reviewer should be free, of course, to reject them in toto. But they should at least be considered within the context of their own university system, not merely measured against the standards of a self-perpetuating cultural elite who do not represent the most significant developments in higher education, even in their own country.

JOHN WHITTING,  
40 Great Cumberland Place, London, W.1.

Our reviewer writes: Mr. Whitting has been so busy seeing condescension where there is none that he has mistaken my emphasis. The review is not a defence, competent or not, of nineteenth-century higher education. It is an attempt to measure the messianism, and situation of the modern university, and those in it, to explore why many have come to think of it as a radicalized institution serving a particular version of the historical "struggle", and to ask how the disinterested and plural view of the university is to survive, under pressure on the one hand from an inquisitive state and on the other from those who want to make it the voice of the radical, univalent thought-police. That leaves me in no way at odds with the tendency of *The Dissenting Academy* as Mr. Whitting defines it: indeed in so

far as it does what he claims I find it valuable. But in so far as its content, as some of them are, a show of being on the "right" side rather than a sceptical analysis, I have criticized it, but not rejected it in toto.

## Byron on Job

Sir.—There has recently come into my possession a copy of POETICAL REMAINS OF THE LATE HENRY SAVILL SHEPHERD, second son of The Late William Saville Shepherd, Esq., of Coxhoe New Plymouth, Selected and arranged by The Rev. Joseph Garton, B.A., of the Curate of Millbrook Chapel, Devon; Devonport: W. Byers, Print to His Majesty, Fore-Street, 1815.

Page 53 contains of a poem: "JOB/iv. chap. 15-21 verses." On a page in manuscript is the following inscription: "This is by Lord Byron and not by Henry Saville Shepherd vide comment opposite page 210. By Lord Byron. The last piece in Hebrew Melodies in my edition of Lord Byron Works published by John Murray 1868. W. H. Oulton."

The corrigenda opposite page 210 read: "The poem on Job, page 53, by a distinguished Author, was inadvertently sent to the press by the Editor." This curious publication of Byron poem does not seem to be recorded in any index of interest to Byron scholars.

G. S. MANNERS,  
2 King Edward Street, Oxford.

## Nostromo

Sir.—A small error in the text of great note. In all the recent edition of *Nostromo* that I have seen, Sir H. M. C. P. D., explaining away the killing of Señor Hirsch, uses the word "Ah! he had confessed everything! In the edition, however, of 1904 (page 383) he seems to me to be almost certainly in error. The word *Nostromo* would have employed in this particular context.

MORCHARD BISHOP,  
Veltams, Morebath, near Tiverton, Devon.

## The trivial passages of life

PAUL DELANY: *British Autobiography in the Seventeenth Century*. 196pp. Routledge and Kegan Paul. 40s.

Professor Delany's is a tantalizing work, full of rich vistas and fascinating prospects, down which the reader is never taken quite far enough. He designates a field of "seventeenth-century autobiography" which he methodically examines, first under the head of religion: Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Sectarian; and second under that of "secular autobiography", divided into those written by "individuals" and those written in the "objective mode", chiefly by soldiers, travellers, and statesmen.

The little market ambitious claims to span the century, but it is obvious that the author's main interest lies in the first half of the period. The introduction declares the intention of providing "the scholar with a guide to what the term 'British seventeenth-century autobiography' really designates". But both the bibliography and the choice of works for discussion are more than a little selective—leave Pennington's *Account of my Soul's Travels towards the Holy Land* is not mentioned, Temple's *Memoirs* do not appear, John Dunton's amusing *Voyage round the World* receives no more than a passing reference, and Francis Kirken's *Unlucky Citizen* does not feature at all. This is a pity, because Professor Delany has too little to say about what might be called the "picturesque autobiography", written, like Kirken's, "for the Meridian of the City, chiefly for City Readers".

The visions and prospects Professor Delany offers us are of another book, of which the chapter on the Renaissance and on the "Rise of Autobiography" in the present work provides a sketch. He is clearly fascinated by the cultural and social forces which underlie the manifestation of "individuality" in autobiography, and by the development in this period of what he calls "self-concepts". That is a major study to which this book is no more than a preliminary.

Regrettably it bears all too brightly its academic taint. Not only does this affect the method of exposition, sometimes annoyingly out-of-date, it also stamps the very question he sets out to answer about the meaning of the term autobiography. As the author himself points out, the word autobiography was probably coined by Soutby in the *Quarterly Review* in 1809. It was not a recognized genre in the seventeenth century, and there is a risk of both anachronism and tautology in attempting to apply a modern category to attain an academic understanding of what that category "really designates"—to the context of the seventeenth century. (One might equally write a study of the prime thriller from Gamaliel Bailey to Richard Head.) In dissecting

# Crisis of the seventeenth century

A. D. LUBLINSKAYA: *French Absolutism: The Crucial Phase*. Translated by Brian Pearce. 349pp. Cambridge University Press. 2s.

It comes as something of a surprise to find a Russian book on a short period of French history appearing in an English translation, when it would have seemed more appropriate for it to be published in French. However, any translation is better than none, and readers in this country at least can have nothing to complain about. In fact the title of Professor Lublinskaya's book is rather misleading, and its contents are very far from being a tidy and coherent whole. The first 100 pages are devoted to an examination of the "general crisis of the seventeenth century" controversy, and are followed by four chapters on French history which discuss the economy, the Huguenot problem, the financiers, and the reform programme presented to the Assembly of Notables in 1626. There is surprisingly little connexion between the theoretical discussion of the first section and the detailed analysis of the second, and they could very well have been published separately.

The lengthy discussion of the "general crisis" is revealing of both the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary Russian historiography. The problem is tackled with a real sense of its importance, and a closely argued investigation gives a very full picture of the difficulties involved. But too often the argument degenerates into tedious Marxist dialectics, and the mistake is compounded by

imposed on the evidence: while elsewhere Marx and Lenin are cited as the sole evidence for erroneous generalizations. These pages are hard going, and although at times they make useful criticisms of the theories of E. J. Hobsbawm, Mousnier and Hugh Trevor-Roper, it cannot be said that they make a difficult topic very much clearer to the reader.

Basically Professor Lublinskaya appears doubtful about the very existence of a "general crisis". Her arguments are most convincing when they are applied to the theory of the Renaissance state, put forward by Professor Trevor-Roper; but in this field she has little to say that previous critics have not also noted. When the economic crisis of the century is in question, however, her reasons for minimizing its extent and importance are of more dubious validity. Criticizing both Mousnier and Hobsbawm, she proposes a similar process: vital parts of their arguments are by-passed, either by vague assertions of the inadequacy of the evidence, or by a denial of its relevance. Having thus isolated a few points, she attacks these, and contends that this is sufficient to demolish the whole structure. It may well be true that Hobsbawm's interpretation of the Baltic trade and Mousnier's view of the modernizing role of the state are both mistaken. But they are more defensible than Professor Lublinskaya's elimination of the population rise as a major factor in the history of the period. Because of this, the argument degenerates into tedious Marxist dialectics, and the mistake is compounded by

her failure to consider the significance of the widening gap between agricultural and industrial prices. This part of the book will be of interest to specialists in the period, but more an account of some useful points of detail than for its general argument.

The first of the chapters on France deals with the economy, and is largely cast in the form of a commentary on the lengthy treatise by Montchretien published in 1615 (and cited last week in these columns by Bertrand de Jouvenel). This is a very odd procedure, particularly as the treatise is an unashamed *philodver* in favour of certain commercial and industrial interests. It is not really very convincing, for example, to be told that Montchretien's observations "categorically disprove" the use of woaden rather than metal tools by the peasantry. Professor Lublinskaya mentions the work of Pierre Goubert, but makes absolutely no use of the important information it contains on the economy. The subsequent works by Le Roy Ladurie and Deyon, to mention only two, published since her book was written, make this chapter completely outdated, except as a résumé of Montchretien's views.

The book suddenly becomes very much more interesting from this point onwards, and Professor Lublinskaya seems much more at home in the political history of the period. Her long chapter on the Huguenot "state within a state" gives an excellent and intelligent account of the royal offensive against this dangerous and subversive anomaly. She demonstrates how the maintenance

of the "supplementary articles" of the Edict of Nantes was in the interest of the Huguenots, and how successive ministers had to recognize the imperative need to break Huguenot military power. The account of Richelieu's problems and tactics is also valuable, but there is perhaps an unnecessary amount of detailed information on the campaigns, mostly derived from a contemporary account published in 1623.

Probably the best chapter of all is that devoted to the financiers, a group which historians have hardly begun to study in detail. Although Professor Lublinskaya does not reveal many new facts, her account of the general financial situation and the nature of the state debt is extremely informative; this chapter will be very useful to students. The author sketches the manner in which the tax-farmers stood at the head of large groups of smaller men, and thus funnelled capital into the state treasury. In the same chapter she demolishes an unpublished Russian thesis which sought to make La Vieville the representative of the "financial interest" in the government, and demonstrates how Richelieu ousted him by shrewd exploitation of his mistakes in foreign policy.

The final chapter examines the early years of Richelieu's administration, from 1625 to 1627, concentrating on the financial and economic problems by negotiation with the Assembly of Notables in 1626-27. The failure of this essay to government by consent drove Richelieu back to the old expedients, raising loans and increasing taxes, with unfortunate social and political consequences. Although of more limited importance, this too is a scholarly and interesting chapter, with something new to say. It is rather a pity that it is followed by a short conclusion in which numerous statements are made which have no apparent relation to the argument of the book as a whole.

Professor Lublinskaya assigns great importance to the development of capitalist relations, and in unadmitted "profound changes" in French society between 1610 and 1630, in making the victory of the absolutist state possible. This is a tenable viewpoint, but it is not really upheld by a book which is at its best when dealing with facts rather than theories.

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# The Royal Library of Brussels

*Bibliothèque Royale: Mémoires, 1569-1969.* 467 pp. 700 B.Jr. Quinz. Amédée d'Acquations de la pose de la première pierre à l'inauguration officielle de la Bibliothèque. 549pp. 600B.H. Brussels: Bibliothèque Royale Albert ler.

These simultaneously published and sumptuously illustrated volumes, with many plates in colour, have recently been distributed by the Brussels Royal Library. The titles of the two volumes go some way in describing their contents and purpose; in so far as credit for their production can be assigned to individuals, the first is mainly the work of Mme. Claudine Lemire, the second of M. Herman Lichaers, the dynamic Conservateur en Chef of the library.

The basis of its royal appellation, as is put very clearly in the introductory chapter of the *Mémoires*, has necessarily changed several times over the four centuries of its existence, against the altering background of the history of the Low Countries; the earliest extant founding document, of 1539, refers to Philip II of Spain, who had just inherited from his uncle, Mary of Hungary, the numerous and books which had come to her from Margaret of Austria. This was essentially the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne and the Royal Library, either in whole or in part, has been known as such at different times. Thus after the constitution of the modern kingdom of Belgium in 1830-31 and the creation of an independent Royal Library, the manuscript section entered it under that name, the printed books coming from what was known as the Bibliothèque de la Ville.

This union was not in fact accomplished until 1837, presumably because of administrative difficulties, but we do not know what they were, for not many documents covering the intervening period have survived; one of the few established facts is that the number of manuscripts increased enormously, by as many as 7,000, according to one authority, during those seven years, and there is a tradition that this was largely because of the interest taken in them by the new queen, Leopold I, recently married second wife. In this country we can note that one of the most important acquisitions made then was the famous *Reynolds History* manuscript at the eleventh Heber sale in February, 1836.

The attachment of the royal family to the library was re-emphasized a century and a German invasion later, at a time when it was becoming clear that nothing but a radical solution could deal with the acute problems of administration and overcrowding which had arisen. After the tragic death of King Albert in 1934, his widow and his successor suggested that the most suitable memorial to him would be an entirely new library to be known as the Bibliothèque Royale Albert ler. An eponymous "Fonds" was set up and one of its first tasks was to decide on a site; by the time this was settled, the Second World War had broken out, followed by a second German invasion. Meanwhile the architects went on with their work, and in 1954 the foundation stone of the new library was laid by King Baudouin, who inaugurated the completed building on February 17, 1969.

To celebrate that event an exhibition was opened of the most important acquisitions made in the intervening period, most of them after 1956, the year in which M. Lichaers took up his present post; in the preface to the exhibition catalogue, *Quinze années d'acquisitions*, he writes that the end to the state of his purchases was nearly 50 million Belgian francs and that the gift and bequests were valued at more than 5 million—these figures, applying only, it would seem, to what was actually exhibited. They may not seem large by comparison with those which might be cited elsewhere, but it must be remembered, first, that Belgium is a small country and, secondly, that the relevant fiscal advantages obtaining in other countries have only been in operation there since 1964.

The *Mémoires*, in addition to the chapters on the early history of the library, already mentioned, and on the work of the "Fonds" from 1934 onwards, contains separate sections describing the growth of each department of the library: manuscripts, printed books, reserve, prints and drawings, maps and plans, medals, music; the exhibition catalogue describes the new acquisitions under corresponding heads.

Manuscripts, many of them illuminated, comprise the most important section of *Quinze années*; it is fascinating to observe how the old connexion with England has persisted. From the original "Librairie des Ducs de Bourgogne" there are in the

Royal Library the thirteenth-century Peterborough Psalter from Charles V of France and a fourteenth-century Apocalypse illuminated in England which belonged to Charles de Croÿ; in 1836, as has been noted, an important manuscript was bought at the Heber sale, and between 1888 and 1900 a number of things were extracted from the Bibliothèque Philippien; now, in addition in many other items from England, *Quinze années* records two Froissart manuscripts which had been at Clumber (incidentally the stated pedigree of one of them is erroneous) and several manuscripts from Dyson Perrins, including a fifteenth-century Flemish Horae from the first sale, the tenth-century Latin Gospels from the second and the fourteenth-century Gilles li Muisit from the third. Another illuminated text manuscript of the same period which has now arrived in Brussels is the Adenot Roi which had passed through the La Roche-Guyon sale in 1927 and, most excitingly, the Royal Library was able to bring home, from the Lancelotti sale in 1960, the fifteenth-century *Vita Christi*, with miniatures attributed to Loyset Liédet, which had disappeared from the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne at some date after 1577 to turn up at a Paris sale of 1887.

The history of the printed books does not really go back beyond the incorporation of the Bibliothèque de la Ville in 1837, followed a year later by the purchase of the 64,000 volumes which had belonged to Charles von Huthem; other collections were added in the course of the nineteenth century, and rare books were purchased at many auction sales until the outbreak of the First World War. In 1923 a first attempt was made to separate the more valuable books from the rest, but this regrouping did not actually bring about a Reserve précieuse until 1945; it was Franz Schwaers who was finally responsible for this and for the acquisition of a few important early books between 1947 and 1954. More were added thereafter, as can be seen in *Quinze années*, many of them as part of the Nyssen and Solvay gifts, but it is not unfair to say that, relatively speaking, the holdings of the Bibliothèque Royale in the fields of incunabula, sixteenth-century printing and early bindings are weak; there are no Caxtons, no examples of early Mainz printing, very little even of

Colant Mansigh, and the *Hymn unchiusi Poliphili* 1491 did not enter the library until 1954, the first of the bindings ten years later. On the other hand the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are well represented in the Reserve both by older holdings or by gifts or bequests from recent benefactors: the two just mentioned, as well as Jules Jadin and comte de Launoy.

It is not necessary to describe collections of maps and plans, drawings and engravings, medals and coins, and twentieth-century literature autographs or the important additions to them catalogued in *Quinze années*. But special mention must be made of the very strong department of much of which goes back to French design, c. 1900, in furniture, courts of Burgundy and of the Habsburgs, from the fourteenth to the twentieth century. There have been many later acquisitions, the most important being perhaps the *Art Nouveau*, though Mr. B. Bantant, principal of the Brussels Conservatoire and one of the foremost of modern musicology, whose son, Edouard, loyally served the Bibliothèque Royale for sixty-five years, international nature of the style. In 1887 to 1904, *Quinze années* complex content of his works, crisscrossed important—and the plates bring out the wealth recently added to this department detail to be found in his paintings.

So much for the past, and the volume on Delacroix views him in little doubt that the present is the nineteenth century's prophet, serviteur en Chef and his colleague an art of colour and atmosphere, will continue, whenever they can find it interesting to compare this take advantage of such opportunities. Adelaide Murgis's *Life and* as may present themselves of affairs. fine books and manuscripts in various departments. But in the *Australia* ter, "Actualities of perspectives," *Voyage to New South Wales*, which M. Lichaers winds up *The Journal of Erasmus Willem Braderley, R.N., of H.M.S. occupations with the letters of Sir John, 1786-1792*, 495pp. Sydney: different nature. Serious admirers of the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, in deriving mainly from two faces, the encroachment, if that be the right word, of the sciences, the humanities and the rapidly rich in reprints. Is after several false starts, of a First Fleet journal: the "dépot légal". In the very last of William Bradley, Hunter's pages he writes of the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, elle centre de nombreuses collections nationales, ce qui implique, though well known to students in specialisation, et un large éventail de compétences, et he hopes the my continue so, becoming ever with Bradley's "views" twenty beneficial to academic and his academic users; good luck to him to his successors.

the year 1788 and all that, the humanities and the rapidly rich in reprints. Is after several false starts, of a First Fleet journal: the "dépot légal". In the very last of William Bradley, Hunter's pages he writes of the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, elle centre de nombreuses collections nationales, ce qui implique, though well known to students in specialisation, et un large éventail de compétences, et he hopes the my continue so, becoming ever with Bradley's "views" twenty beneficial to academic and his academic users; good luck to him to his successors.

dedications, inscriptions and indications of provenance. Owners' kept within the naval discipline of transcription of meticulous record. We limited names are an insignificant learn little of the man himself; blamish on this scholarly catalogue here are facts 1786-1792, whose by ending this first part at 1800, liability students of the period will welcome.

clothes the lively period of the Monroes, the Hunters, Sparks, Goethe and Erasmus Darwin, preparation for the rich flowering of zoological knowledge and specialisation in the nineteenth century, and one by one century Professor Cole's book on the history of Comparative Anatomy. May the preparation of the part not be long delayed.

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## Books received

### Botany

CLEARY, F. E. *The Flowering City*. 48pp. The City Press. 25s.

An early report on the trees and flowers in the City of London was that of Fitzstephens in the twelfth century: he wrote of the citizens who dwell in the suburbs that their gardens were well furnished with trees, spacious and beautiful. Slow, too, wrote of the suburban gardens and their trees; and also of the flowers on the houses on saints' days.

Mr. Cleary writes of the trees and flowers to be seen today, a hundred years since the Corporation recognized its duty to provide them. It is an attractive book with nearly eighty photographs, some in colour, and it shows what is being done not only by the Corporation but by churches, banks, city companies, business houses and a railway station. The gardens vary from Finsbury Circus to window-boxes and pavement tubs. Mr. Cleary reckons that there are some 750 trees in the City and that nearly a quarter of a million plants come each year from the Corporation's nursery at West Ham. There are unexpected difficulties: it is the Corporation's policy to avoid obstruction to traffic by putting pipes and cables underneath the pavements. This prevents the planting of trees on them. But Mr. Cleary, who is chairman of the Trees, Gardens and City Open Spaces Committee, hopes no doubt that there can, and will, be an increasing number of trees and flowers in the City.

KERR, JESSICA. *Shakespeare's Flowers*. Illustrated by Anne Dphelia Dowden. 86pp. Longmans. 21s.

In collecting together the various references to flowers in Shakespeare's plays Jessica Kerr has built up a picture of Elizabethan England in which herbs and flowers played an important role. They were valued not only for their culinary uses: marjoram for shedding fragrance when trodden on the floor, lavender for the linen cupboard, other herbs as symbols of constancy, for making love-potions and in witches' brews. The book combines extracts from the plays with much interesting lore, and the plants are beautifully illustrated by Anne Ophelia Dowden.

### History

ANDERSON, M. S. *Peter the Great*. 32pp. Historical Association. 3s. 6d. (non-members).

Mr. Anderson shows Peter the Great in this pamphlet as the largely unwitting creator of a new kind of state. Except for the creation of a navy and the destruction of the Church's autonomy, his reign accelerated processes already begun in the seventeenth century. He holds that Peter was more influenced by foreign examples than Russian historians generally admit, yet the roots of his policies were in Russia itself, and he saw the "Europeanization" of his country only as a means to an end.

GRAHAM, HENRY GRAY. *The Social Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century*. 54pp. A. & C. Black. 25s.

Seventy years ago when Graham published his study of Scottish life in the eighteenth century he wrote that it was concerned "with details which the historian dismisses with impatience as unconsidered trifles". His opinion reads strangely odd, when social history is treated with far more academic respect. Graham's intimately detailed picture of former Scotland life in town and countryside, in the home, the school and the church, reappears in a new edition with an introduction by Eric Linklater.

LIVINGSTONE, PEARL. *The Fermanagh story*. 370pp. Enniskillen: Clogher Historical Society. £3.

A new history of any Irish county is welcome. Fr. Livingstone summarizes what has been recorded of the prehistoric and early medieval periods, and expands his history through the Maguire rule from 1300 to 1600 and the English plantation. He notes that Maguire is still the commonest name in the county and

that most of the settlers were English not Scottish. Since then Fermanagh has been a border county, split by the Erne river and its great lakes between the English and Irish. Fr. Livingstone exploits very fairly the well-known exploits of the men of Enniskillen in King William's war, and gives a very interesting account of the penal years and the liberalization between 1780 and 1870. His nationalist sympathies get the better of his historical perspective concerning the subsequent redivision of the communities. His account of changing methods of farming and farm tenure, of old trades and new industries is valuable and informative. His final chapters include a gazetteer and an interesting survey of family origins. He deduces that most of the English families in the county are descended from tenants or retainers who settled there 350 years ago.

PLATT, CYRIL. *Medieval Archaeology in England*. 31pp. Shifflet Manor, Isle of Wight: Pinhorn. 12s.

Medieval archaeology is a comparatively new science as a separate discipline though the numbers of volunteer helpers always available for a dig show that it makes a strong appeal to many people. But the work needs to be substantiated by work in the research room and it is a help to young researchers that Dr. Platt's short book is designed. Students faced by the formidable resources of the Public Record Office and the less massive but more various collections in the British Museum will benefit by this introduction to them, though it is slightly puzzling that he refers them to Giuseppe's Guide to the P.R.O. manuscripts which, as the bibliographies states, has been superseded by the recent *Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office*. In addition to these two chief repositories, there are useful indications of other, printed sources elsewhere.

WEERAMANTRY, LUCIAN G. *Assassination of a Prime Minister*. 314pp. Literary Services and Production. £2 8s.

The author, a distinguished lawyer, was asked, while he was still practising at the Ceylon Bar, to undertake the defence of the Rev. Jaldewe Sommarra, accused—and ultimately convicted—of the murder of Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, then Prime Minister of Ceylon. The trial inevitably caused a sensation, not only in Ceylon but in many other parts of the world; and one of Mr. Weeramant's purposes in writing this book is to record the dignified and exemplary fashion in which the judicial system of Ceylon functioned under the most trying and unprecedented conditions. But in addition to this, the author has set himself to explain, against the background of contemporary events in his country, the reasons why the murder occurred, the background of the several accused others of whom were defended by some of his most eminent colleagues, and the political atmosphere in which the trial took place. The entire narrative, skillfully put together, is excellent reading, and a real contribution to our knowledge of one of the most tragic episodes in the history of modern Ceylon.

*Writings on British History*. Vol. 4: *The Eighteenth Century, 1714-1815*. Part I: 297pp. Part II: 390pp. Cape. £7.7s. the set.

The series of bibliographies now coming from the Royal Historical Society is one for which all historians must be grateful, for it can save them much time and labour in searching through library catalogues. In the present volume the descriptive lists record books and articles published between 1901 and 1933 to all fields of eighteenth-century history—a period here considered to extend from 1714 to 1815. It is a highly professional production, where the essential information is provided to the briefest space fully indexed, and arranged under categories and sub-categories. In the first part are writings on British political, economic and ecclesiastical history,

and while the second comprises those on the Empire as well as diaries and biographies.

### India

GHURRY, G. S. *Caste and Race in India*. 493pp. Bombay: Popular Prakashan. Rs.40.

During the thirty-seven years which have elapsed between the first and this, the fifth, edition, Dr. Ghurry has attained unquestioned primacy among Indian sociologists; and, far from repenting of his earlier opinions, has become confirmed in them because of the amount of new material. The inclusion of this has made the new edition almost a fresh book. The dangers to social progress which the author discerned in the strength of caste patriotism are now, in his view, underlined by a "hardening of easties on an All-India basis or of sub-castes into castes on the linguistic basis for economic, educational and political uplift or upgrinding" which seems certain to produce, not a casteless, but a plural society. Can this process be checked? Perhaps—if India's statesmen awaken to the position in time.

MELLOR, JOHN W., WEAVER, THOMAS F., LEE, DAVID J., SIMON, SHELDON R. *Developing Rural India: Plan and Practice*. 411pp. Cornell University Press. (I.B.E.G.) £5 5s.

There is little that is revolutionary about this book; and its main conclusion, that political and economic development in India is closely bound up with development in agriculture, has long been accepted by agricultural economists in Britain and the United States. Indian opinion, now gradually recovering from the mistakes which led to the all-out pursuit of large-scale industrial projects, is following suit; and there is some hope that the careful investigations of Professor Mellor and his colleagues will prove of real service in helping Indian planners to avoid past errors and to proceed on sounder lines in the future. In the judgment of these American experts, agricultural progress in India has been hindered by five principal shortcomings: weakness in the kind of research which could produce profitable innovation adapted to Indian conditions; over-rigidity in planning, with insufficient allowance for the necessity of pragmatic dealings with limiting factors; excessive centralization, which is now being modified in favour of local controls as the lesser of too much central interference—e.g. in community development—is now being taken to heart; a certain obsession with the public sector to the damage of the role of private initiative; and shortage of trained manpower. Very fairly, the authors point out that in all these directions, the circumstances of the time afford substantial excuses for what was actually done; and that hindsight was required to detect some of the adverse consequences now apparent. Moreover, the increase of food production has at last matched the population explosion. But this of itself is not enough; agriculture in India is still not playing the part that it must play if political and economic growth is to be based upon the only sound foundation which Indian conditions provide.

WEERAMANTRY, LUCIAN G. *Assassination of a Prime Minister*. 314pp. Literary Services and Production. £2 8s.

The author, a distinguished lawyer, was asked, while he was still practising at the Ceylon Bar, to undertake the defence of the Rev. Jaldewe Sommarra, accused—and ultimately convicted—of the murder of Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, then Prime Minister of Ceylon. The trial inevitably caused a sensation, not only in Ceylon but in many other parts of the world; and one of Mr. Weeramant's purposes in writing this book is to record the dignified and exemplary fashion in which the judicial system of Ceylon functioned under the most trying and unprecedented conditions. But in addition to this, the author has set himself to explain, against the background of contemporary events in his country, the reasons why the murder occurred, the background of the several accused others of whom were defended by some of his most eminent colleagues, and the political atmosphere in which the trial took place. The entire narrative, skillfully put together, is excellent reading, and a real contribution to our knowledge of one of the most tragic episodes in the history of modern Ceylon.

### Topography

BENTWICH, HELEN C. *The Vale of Health*. 93pp. High Hill Press. 30s.

Mrs. Bentwich, a former chairman of the L.C.C. and a resident of the Vale of Health since 1931, has written a brief history of the comparatively isolated community on Hampstead Heath which bears that name. The name itself, dates from 1801; Lough Hunt, best known of the early residents, came to live there fourteen years later, probably (in the author's view) at the house called Vale Lodge; more recent inhabitants include Tagore, D. H. Lawrence, the Hammonds, Stanley Spencer, Lamb, Goldsworthy, Northcote and his parents, and Edgar Wallace. Mrs. Bentwich has carefully gathered together the available information about the little settlement

and the people who have lived there, going back to the medieval records and exploding a number of hitherto accepted myths. She touches on the three hotels and their sad decline—immediately before the First World War one of them was a flourishing Anglo-German club—and also very briefly on the fairground families who are still based there. Though her illustrations are interesting, so that one wishes there were more of them, anybody stimulated to walk around hoping to visualize the past she conjures up will feel the lack of a map.

### Transport History

THOMAS, JOHN. *Greta, Britain's Worst Railway Disaster (1915)*. 143pp. Newton Abbott: David and Charles. 30s.

All major railway accidents are horrible but that which took place at Quintinshill, near Greta, on the Anglo-Scottish border, was perhaps the most horrible of all British disasters. On a fine May morning in 1915 a troop train carrying fifteen officers and 470 men of The Royal Scots collided head on with a local train; shortly afterwards the midnight express from Euston to Glasgow struck the wreckage at speed. An appalling fire followed and out of a total of 227 persons killed 214 were soldiers; 246 people were injured. As Mr. Thomas explains in his detailed and dramatic reconstruction of the holocaust—and the word is surely permissible here—human error caused it all. The local train was within sight of the Quintinshill signal, yet the signalman and the man he had just relieved forgot it was there and let the troop train through. Both were sent to prison.

### Wine and Food

HOWE, ROBIN. *For Eastern Cookery*. 262pp. Michael Joseph, for the International Wine and Food Society. £2 10s.

Robin Howe has previously covered more restricted areas or types of cooking, and she has set herself a difficult task in stretching one book all the way from Pakistan to Japan and from Nepal to Indonesia. But it may succeed precisely because it has something from everywhere, and it contains hundreds of recipes which are simple to follow and delicious to eat, as well as more general information about the food of the various countries. Unfortunately there are many instructions which are too vague for such unfamiliar dishes, and Mrs. Howe's little style jars unpleasantly; Elizabeth David has set a standard which is dangerous to attempt if one cannot reach it.

In our notice in these columns last week of *Hawkins of Plymouth* by James A. Williamson it should have been said that Dr. Williamson (not Dr. Black) revised the book before his death.

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## VACANT APPOINTMENTS

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Salary: Within the range \$4500-\$5700 per annum. In addition, a Northern Allowance of \$460 p.a. is payable.

Date of Closing: Applications should be received by the University on or before 15th October 1969.

The College provides Superannuation similar to the F.S.S.U. Scheme, housing assistance and study leave. Reasonable travel and removal expenses are payable. Additional information and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary-General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (Empire Garden Square, London, W.C.1).

Applications close in Townsville and London on 15th October, 1969.

## Liverpool Education

### LIVERPOOL REGIONAL COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

#### DEPUTY LIBRARIAN

(£1265-£1485-AP11)

Applications are invited from Chartered Librarians who have experience in a technical library. General Local Government conditions apply and tenure expenses up to a maximum of £600 per annum are payable in approved cases. Application forms, returnable to the Acting Principal as soon as possible, are available from the Director of Education, Education Office, 14 Sir Thomas Street, Liverpool L1 6BL.

STANLEY HOLMES, Town Clerk

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Applications are invited from Chartered Librarians or students awaiting examination results for the post of GROUP LIBRARIAN with responsibilities for a unit of two branch libraries. The salary to be paid will be within the Librarian's Scale (11) £1,135 to £1,597. It will be payable in accordance with housing costs as assessed.

The Library system is progressive and the post offers experience in branch stock and staff control. Further details are available from the Acting Librarian, Central Library, Hartlepool, to whom applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, together with the names of two referees, should be forwarded by 16th October, 1969.

Stanley Holmes, Town Clerk

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Northern College of Further Education

#### Librarian Assistant

##### in this modern library

The ability to type would be an advantage

Salary: £1,095-£1,301

The appointment is

supernumerary, subject to medical

examination and is

conditional upon

membership of an

appropriate Trade

Union or Organisation

approved by the

Stock-on-Trent City

Council.

Forms of application

may be obtained from

the Chief Education Officer,

Union, P.O. Box 23,

Town Hall, Hunley,

Stock-on-Trent,

ST1 1QN, and should

be returned not later

than 15th October,

1969.

H. DUNN, Chief Education Officer

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## NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

### APPLY TO THE LIBRARIAN

#### in the post of

##### LIBRARIAN ASSISTANT

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

### Senior Library Assistant

#### Salary Grade AP.2. £1,185 - £1,400 p.a.

Applications are invited for the above appointment. Preference given to persons having some part of the Library Association Professional Examinations.

Application forms from Borough Librarian, Greenwich Library, Woolwich Road, London, S.E.10. Closing date: 21st October, 1969.

Application forms are available from the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, 45 Chichester Street, Bristol, B.T. 4.0. Completed forms must be returned by Oct. 24, 1969.

Please quote S.B. 142/69.

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